

WILD HERON PLANTATION

HABS NO. GA-253

14 Mi. from SAVANNAH on Little Ogeechee R. GEORGIA

HABS
GA.

26-SAVV.

3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Georgia

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAROLD BUSH-BROWN, DISTRICT OFFICER

GEORGIA SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

WILD HERON PLANTATION

On Little Ogeechee River 14 Mi. from Savannah,
Chatham, County, Georgia

26 - SAV.V

3-

Owner: Mrs. Shelby Myrick, 2807 Abercorn Street, Savannah Ga.

Date of Erection: Probably about 1756.

Present Condition: Excellent. Restored 1935. Baths added on first floor and two bedrooms and bath made in attic with dormer windows. The original dining room and kitchen restored in basement. Mrs. Myrick has built in an old fashioned stove nearly one hundred years old in kitchen. Because of termites old beams were boxed in with new pine. Inside brick walls were stuccoed with tabby. Flagstone floor laid in basement. Plaster replaced with light pine paneling.

Number of Stories: One story, basement and attic.

Materials of Construction: Foundation of old Savannah brick, Floors wood. Exterior and interior walls frame with light pine paneling (originally were plastered) with original wood wainscoting. Double pitch ridge roof shingled. House framed with pine sawed and hewn by hand.

Other Existing Records: The original Land Grant hangs in the living room. Information from Mrs. Robert M. Hull, nee Minna Macleod, who was direct lineal descendent of Francis Harris to Mrs. Shelby Myrick in May 1935 when she bought the place. Original letter from Jas. B. Wilde to Recorder of Deeds of Savannah which is framed with the Land Grant.

Additional Data: The original Land Grant was taken from Savannah by Jas. B. Wilde, a member of Sherman's Army, and returned in 1909 in following letter; To Recorder of Deeds, Savannah, Georgia: "As a boy, I was one of Sherman's Army. When we reached Savannah, I was detailed as clerk to Board of Examiners for Officers. The meetings were held in a lawyer's office, I believe it was on the corner of Bull and Drayton Streets. While there I

found upon the floor the enclosed grant. Thinking at that time it was of no value but a great curiosity, and being under the influence of boyhood spoilation, I put the grant in my pocket and carried it home. Last night in looking over some papers in a box that had not been opened for a great many years, this grant was found, and I desire, if it is possible that it shall be returned to the proper parties, I therefore enclose it to you.

In connection herewith I beg to state in my own behalf that this is the only piece of property, outside of something to eat and soap to wash with that I despoiled the Southern people of.

Trusting that no harm shall come from my retaining this paper so long, I beg to remain.

Yours very truly, James B. Wilde."

In 1756 eight hundred and fifty acres of land were granted to Francis Harrie by King George II. This land remained in Harris Family until bought May 1935 by Mrs. Shelby Myrick. The plantation was named for estate of Mary Goodal of Hampshire England which she sold when she married Francis Harris and came to Georgia Colony in 1750. Several years ago Mrs. Myrick inveetigated the old estate of England and found name to be known as Wild Hern, the word "Hern" being an abbreviation of Herron.

On June 13, 1783 the daughter of Col. Francis Harris, Elizabeth, was married to Dr. Donald Macleod, who came over as eurgeon in British Army and was the great-great grandfather of Harrie King. The house was built by Col. Francis Harrie. The palm tree of the photograph was planted by Elizabeth Harris 153 years ago. The old slave burying ground about

one quarter of mile from house is still used by the descendents of the slaves. Harris King considers this oldest wood house in the state. It is said Sherman during his occupation of Savannah used this house as a protection of the water front and that is reason it was left standing. While the water front is southeast the house faces south in a setting of wonderful old oaks, cedars, and hollies.

Harold Bush-Brown

HAROLD BUSH-BROWN Feb 9, 1937

DISTRICT OFFICER-HABS

3/11/37 -TW

Addendum to:

Wild Heron Plantation
Grove Point Road, in the vicinity
of Little Ogeechee River
Savannah vicinity
Chatham County
Georgia

HABS No. GA-253

HABS,
GA,
26-SAV.V,
3-

PHOTOGRAPH